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16 June 1958

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USSR Agriculture Conference Requirements

1. Soviet officials have made a number of extremely vague comments regarding the effect of the MTS re-organization on agricultural machinery production. There are even some indications in open literature that they don't really know to just what extent production plans will have to be altered. There are comments suggesting that production planning for agricultural machinery may be done for only a year or two or three ahead rather than on a 7-year basis such as is to be done for industry generally. It would be most helpful if this Source could find out in as specific terms as possible just what the plans for the future are. How many grain combines, windrowers, tractor-powered plows, drills and cultivators, for example, do the Soviets expect to produce this year, next year, and in 1955? Is it expected that domestic industry will provide the necessary machines, or will imports increase significantly over the present extremely low level? What will be the major changes in product mix for the future?

Background

2. The Barnaul Transport Machine Building Plant manufactures 150 and 300 horsepower diesel engines used in oil drilling rigs, river boats, generators for kolhoz electric power stations, and other equipment. During the war and for several years thereafter, the plant produced tank engines. Until 1958 the plant was mentioned regularly in the Soviet press. Since 1 January 1958, the plant has not been mentioned in the Barnaul newspaper Altayakaya Pravda, nor has any information on it been observed in other Soviet newspapers that have mentioned it in the past. This lack of press treatment gives rise to a suspicion that the plant may be engaged in some new production of a military nature.

Requirement

A. Any information on the current activities of this plant including names of plant officials.

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SUBJECT: Requirements - [REDACTED]

B. Are there any special physical security measures being employed at this plant?

(Suggest this be issued as an RD and given general distribution to State, DD/P, RH, etc.).

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